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HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]
CONTROL SYSTEM

[REDACTED] 2065-87
Copy 4 of 6
9 January 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: News Releases on A-12 Loss

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. A meeting was held on 6 January 1967 in the office of AFRDR-P. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss official news releases concerning the loss of the A-12 (#125) in Nevada on 5 January 1967. In attendance were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of AFRDR-P and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of OSA/DDS&T.
3. Two proposed releases were submitted by the CIA representatives for consideration. The first, an advance release to be issued by the Edwards AFB PIO, stating only that an SR-71 type aircraft was missing and presumed down east of Las Vegas. This was agreed to by the group and subsequently coordinated with, and approved by, [REDACTED] Gen. Bacalis, and General LeBailly. At the urging of the latter it was agreed that the release should not be held any longer.
4. Mr. Kelly Johnson of Lockheed was advised by telephone of the planned release and objected to the designation "SR-71 type aircraft" recommending it be described only as "an experimental model". He subsequently called [REDACTED] and stated his objections and the reasons therefore. After further discussions among the principals, it was agreed that the terminology would be: "An experimental model of the SR-71 type aircraft." Following is a verbatim transcript of the news release authorized:

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"An experimental model of the SR-71 type aircraft operated by the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation is missing and presumed down in a remote area east of Las Vegas, Nevada. The aircraft, unreported since 1600 PST yesterday, had sufficient fuel to remain aloft only until 1730 PST 5 January 1967.

The missing aircraft, based at Edwards AFB, California, was on a routine test flight mission. Only the test pilot, a civilian, was aboard.

Search parties have been dispatched to comb the area in an effort to locate the downed aircraft.

The name of the pilot is being withheld pending notification of next of kin."

5. It was then agreed that the second release, which identified the pilot, should not be approved at this time, pending further developments in the ongoing search for the aircraft and pilot.

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[REDACTED]
Special Assistant
Office of Special Activities

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SA/OSA/[REDACTED] (9 Jan 67)

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